



City of Downey

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December 30, 2015

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via Fax: (213) 613-1739

**RE: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection
and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance –
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Supervisor Solis:

As Mayor of the City of Downey, I would like to thank you for directing the drafting the Los Angeles County's Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance and express the City's strong support of its adoption. The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. Our City supports this shared responsibility approach, as the costs of managing these materials at the end of their life should not solely come from local jurisdictions.

By requiring the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents, the ordinance establishes a sustainably-financed program that dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals. For years, public agencies have struggled with preventing sharps and unwanted pharmaceuticals from entering the environment, as well as preventing their access for drug abuse and misuse. With access to safe and convenient disposal options, as well as a robust outreach and education program, residents will be more informed of the appropriate collection and disposal methods.

Downey staff participated in one of the multiple stakeholder meetings conducted by the County. We are aware the meetings have included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials,

Future Unlimited

Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection
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retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective ordinance. We believe that this public participation has been essential in developing a cohesive, workable solution. The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. Our City supports this shared responsibility approach, as the costs of managing these materials at the end of their life should not solely come from local jurisdictions.

Following adoption of the ordinance by the Board, the City of Downey is very interested in adopting a resolution to adopt this ordinance so that our residents also have access to safe, convenient, and sustainably-financed collection and disposal methods of pharmaceuticals and sharps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Saab', written in a cursive style.

Alex Saab
Mayor

cc:

Supervisor Don Knabe, Fax (213) 626-6941

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Fax (213) 680-3283

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Fax (213) 625-7360

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fax (213) 974-1010

Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer, shamai@ceo.lacounty.gov

Angelo J. Bellomo, EPR Working Group, abellomo@ph.lacounty.gov

Kristine Guerrero, Los Angeles County Division, LOCC,
kguerrero@cacities.org